

The Coast Guard **RESERVIST**

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A View from the Bridge

by
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Augmentation training has become the byword of the Coast Guard Reserve Program. Yet, in my discussions with reservists throughout the United States, there exists in some minds a perception that, while augmentation still occurs, the increased emphasis on mobilization training and readiness is a signal that augmentation training is in its final stages of usefulness. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is true that the formation of the Maritime Defense Zones (MDZ) and the planning necessary to prepare for a successful implementation of the MDZ will require increased participation in inter-service exercises. This is not intended, however, to replace or even reduce reservists' augmentation activities in other Coast Guard missions.

The apparent increase in emphasis on mobilization training during the past several years stems from the following factors:

- The augmentation training program has been very successful and now requires less attention from management;
- Some specific mobilization skills not routinely available during augmentation training have become the training objectives of some of our formal training;
- The implementation of the MDZ has increased the emphasis on defense readiness planning and mobilization exercises for both the active and reserve components of the Coast Guard;

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A Coast Guard utility boat speeds to intercept small craft near Bath Iron Works during First Shield '87.

Coast Guard, Navy, Air Guard Link Up for Week of Defense Exercises

A Coast Guard petty officer on the windswept fantail of a military supply ship peered through binoculars at Portland, ME harbor. Two Coast Guard utility boats, blue lights flashing, raced to intercept a pleasure boat in restricted waters. A navy minesweeper searched the approaches to Portland for submerged explosives.

Each of these was a player in First Shield '87, a Maritime Defense Zone (MDZ) exercise held in Portland, Maine. The main goal of the early March exercise was to train active duty and reserve personnel to work together in various aspects of MDZ mobilization and support for the defense of ports and shipping. The exercise's

tense, pre-war scenario involved the theoretical mining of Portland Harbor and attacks on important targets from both land and sea.

More than 600 personnel from the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reserve, Naval Reserve, Maine Air National Guard, and Coast Guard Auxiliary, participated in the exercise. Units involved included seven Coast Guard cutters, numerous utility boats, and helicopters from the Coast Guard and Naval Air Station New Brunswick. The USS Affray, a Naval Reserve minesweeper, worked with a Coast Guard boat to find simulated mines in Portland Harbor.

Before the exercise began, participants had one week of intensive classroom training in such topics as defense against terrorism, general security procedures, the exercise's rules of engagement, and communications procedures.

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Reservists Can Utilize Commissaries

Drilling members of the Coast Guard Reserve, and their families, are now able to shop in commissaries on the days of their choice. A member will accrue one day of commissary usage for each day of active duty for training, not to exceed a total of 14 days during any calendar year. Commissaries will keep track of the number of visits by marking the member's Reserve Earning Statement (CGHQ 4458A).

During 1987 Coast Guard reservists will be able to get into commissaries using their December 1986 CGHQ 4458A. The names of authorized dependents, the name of the reserve unit, and a unit authenticating signature need to be completed in the specified location on the form. For further information see COMDTINST 1330.2.

Rights Revised for Reservists

Sweeping changes affecting members of the Coast Guard Reserve are included in the defense authorization passed by Congress in November 1986. Reserve jurisdiction, disability benefits, and reemployment rights are affected by the new legislation. Interpretation and guidance in the application of these changes are expected later this year.

Reservists are now subject to discipline under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) at all times. That reservists are released from duty after an active or inactive duty period does not release them from jurisdiction under the UCMJ. In addition, involuntary recall to active duty for disciplinary action has been authorized with certain limitations.

New legislation also states that an employer may not refuse to hire a member of the reserve forces on the grounds that reserve obligations are an obstacle to employment.

Reservists are now entitled to medical care and disability compensation for illnesses and injuries, incurred during periods of military service (drills and active duty), and while traveling to or from that duty. Reservists have the right to submit a claim for civilian wages lost as a result of illness or injury—up to the amount which would have been earned in active duty pay for the same period. Payments are reduced by the amount of any disability insurance benefits paid to the member. Previously, reservists were placed on full pay and allowances only if disabled from an injury incurred on active duty or during drills. No compensation was paid for disability from illness, nor were they eligible for any pay if their disability did not prevent them from performing their military duties. The new law ties disability compensation to loss of civilian earnings, rather than ability to perform military duties.

Joint service regulations are still being developed to implement these sweeping changes.

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- Changing operating profiles in some operational mission areas—particularly boating, marine, and port safety—have reduced augmentation training opportunities in some of the traditional functions, creating some changes in local unit operations.

While there is now a strong emphasis on defense readiness and mobilization training, augmentation training will not be changed. It is irreplaceable training that allows reservists to experience the day-to-day operations of the Coast Guard and thus gain skills that are related to mobilization requirements. Our basic training philosophy continues to be that performance of daily Coast Guard missions (i.e. augmentation training) provides the best training for mobilization. As I am certain you are aware, other reserve components continue to view our augmentation program as the most effective training method available.

In addition, there are many other benefits of augmentation training. The daily interaction with active duty personnel fosters mutual appreciation of our collective talents and an understanding of each program's problems. The use of reserve forces in all Coast Guard missions is a powerful demonstration to the public of our cost-effectiveness. And the positive contribution to the Coast Guard's peacetime missions provides immense job satisfaction to many reservists.

Notwithstanding all the benefits of augmentation training, I continue to be concerned about individual reservists who do not appear to fully understand their mobilization tasks and responsibilities. It is vital that each reservist be able to answer the following questions:

- 1) What is my mobilization assignment?
- 2) How does my augmentation training prepare me for this mission?
- 3) What other skills do I need for mobilization?
- 4) How am I going to obtain this additional expertise? (Correspondence courses? ADT? Unit training program? Changed augmentation assignments?)
- 5) As I advance in my rate, how will these factors change?

Answers to these questions provide the essence of a career development plan that takes maximum advantage of local augmentation training opportunities and adds formal training and exercise participation to fill in the gaps. The reserve program objective is to find the mix which will make the most out of our augmentation training and thus improve mobilization readiness.

This summer I will be moving on to a new assignment as Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District, with new challenges and opportunities. As I said when I first assumed this assignment, I have been continually impressed by the professionalism and dedication of reserve members. My respect for the reserve program and the men and women in it has grown immensely through this close association with you. Thanks to all of you fine reservists and the dedicated staff per-

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Members of the Coast Guard Reserve are encouraged to submit short articles (in "plain English" of no more than 300 words, typed double spaced) and black and white photographs (at least 5x7 inches, with identifying captions) to the editor for possible publication. Submissions cannot be returned.

Reservists should report change of address to their District (r). The *Reservist* cannot process address changes.

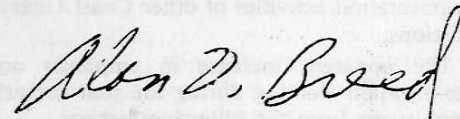
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sonnel who support and administer the reserve program, we have accomplished a great deal. We have lit the fire under recruiting and retention; our Selected Reserve strength is the highest it has ever been in over a decade and continues to grow; the quality of our augmentation and training has improved; we are solving equipment shortfalls; we have increased our participation in readiness exercises; and morale and effort have never been higher.

I repeat to you now what I said when I arrived, and what I have stressed often during my tenure as Chief, Office of Readiness and Reserve: Now is the time to increase our efforts, to use our ingenuity, experience, and enthusiasm to ensure the Coast Guard Reserve is well-trained and "Always Ready".

I am very proud of you and wish each of you the very best success in all you do.



Chief, Office of Readiness and Reserve

More G.I. Bill News

Legislation has been introduced into Congress to make the current Reserve G.I. Bill permanent. At present, the New Reserve G.I. Bill is scheduled to end on 30 June 1988, after a three-year test period.

CWO Spurr Named Outstanding Junior Officer

The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) has named CWO2 Richard P. Spurr the 1986 Coast Guard Reserve Junior Officer of the Year. He received the award in Washington, DC, at the ROA Mid-Winter Conference. CWO Spurr, presently assigned to Reserve Group Boston, MA, enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve in 1958 and served as a Port Securityman, reaching the rate of Senior Chief. In 1985 he was awarded his commission.

In his civilian life, CWO Spurr is a patrol officer with the police department of Needham, MA. He is a registered Emergency Medical Technician and a Divemaster with the Underwater Rescue Team. With the Coast Guard Reserve, CWO Spurr has served on various active duty assignments including the 1984 Olympic Task Force in Los Angeles, CA, the 1985 MDZ Exercise Ocean Safari in Boston, MA, and the 1986 MDZ Exercise First Shield in Davisville, RI. Among his military awards, CWO Spurr holds the Achievement Medal and the Reserve Good Conduct Medal. In 1983 he was selected the First District's Enlisted Reservist of the Year.



CWO Richard Spurr receives the Coast Guard Reserve Junior Officer of the Year Award from RADM Alan Breed. Looking on at the presentation is CWO Spurr's daughter, Kathaleen, and wife, Sheila.

Reservists Respond to Gasoline Spill

In November 1986, CGRU MSO Baltimore responded to a gasoline spill from a downed Beechcraft Queen Air Aircraft. The plane crashed within the city limits of Baltimore into a marsh area between two major streets, killing the pilot. The three passengers were rescued by the Baltimore Fire Department which also responded to the accident. The city's on-scene-coordinator was Fire Chief Joe Diggs who happens to also be a Coast Guard Reservist.

Approximately 140 gallons of fuel were on board at the time of the crash with about 100 gallons spilling into the marsh along the Patapsco River. Under the direction of members of CGRU MSO Baltimore, an independent contractor performed spill clean-up.

Exercises—Continued from Page 1

The background scenario for the exercise was a mock world crisis. The USS Cape Canaveral, a military supply ship moored in Portland, was threatened by attack and sabotage. A suspicious foreign vessel was observed dropping objects, possibly underwater mines, into Portland Harbor and Casco Bay. The players in the exercise were ordered to defend the harbor and keep the shipping lanes open.

On Monday, March 9, participants deployed for security patrols and other operations. Parts of the exercise scenario dealt with attacks by the orange forces (the bad guys) against the blue forces. Prime targets for the "opposing forces" included Coast Guard Base South Portland, Bath Iron Works, and the USS Cape Canaveral.

The frigid Maine March weather proved an unexpected enemy. Boat crews complained of icing conditions and several Naval Reserve personnel showed symptoms of hypothermia.

How did the rank-and-file participants feel about it? "It gave us a chance to work, not only with other services, but with our own reservists," said FN Dennis Spring.

Survival Training Program in the Thirteenth District

The evening is quickly turning to night and the patrol has been a long one. Suddenly the boat hits a deadhead and, more quickly than you thought possible, your boat sinks. It's dark and you're in the water—cold, wet, and 200 yards from an island. Somehow you and your crew get to shore. Now what?

The newly formed CGRU Tacoma II, WA, has developed a survival training program to assist reservists in knowing what to do next. Under the leadership of ENS L. C. Christopher, RU Tacoma II initiated a three-part training program for reserve boat crew members. The program consisted of classroom instruction, instruction and application in a swimming pool, and an overnight survival exercise.

The classroom instruction included instruction on distress signaling, hypothermia, survival equipment, shore survival, shelter and signal construction, and food and water. The pool session included application and instruction on survival suits, PFD's, and survival rafts. The overnight survival exercise allowed the participants to put to use the skills learned in the controlled classes.

Fifth District Wins Waesche Award

The FY86 Waesche Award was presented by Admiral Yost to the Fifth District during the ROA mid-winter conference. The Waesche Award recognizes that district which has had the best overall performance for the preceding year. The judging criteria focus on rating match, Selected Reserve strength, drill attendance, recruiting performance, and others. CAPT Kornish, Chief of the Fifth District Reserve Division, accepted the Award.

Editor's Correction Update

In the November issue of the *Reservist*, we reported on a program in the Eleventh District where reservists relieve the crew of the Point Bridge for a two week period. In that article, we erroneously stated that this is a program unique to the Eleventh District. We are pleased to have been made aware of a similar program which has been in operation in the Twelfth District with the Point Heyer. As CAPT C. L. Rhinard, Chief of the Twelfth District Reserve Division, pointed out, these types of programs, "... attract the 'cream of the crop' and develop thoroughly professional Coast Guardsmen who could fill a billet in any mobilization setting." We couldn't agree more, and would like to hear of any other such programs.

Uniform Notes

Service Dress Whites and Full Dress Whites are required for active duty men and women officers as of 1 May 1987. This uniform is optional for reservists serving on Inactive Duty for Training (IDT) and Active Duty for Training (ADT). The uniform is required for officers on Special Active Duty for Training (SADT) and Temporary Active Duty (TEMAC).

Personnel Management Workshop

Coast Guard Reserve administration experts from nine districts and Headquarters attended a Reserve Personnel Management Workshop held in Dallas, TX in mid-March. The theme of the workshop was "Quality Service to the Member" and the sessions were designed to provide a forum to discuss personnel accounting and support problems and exchange ideas and solutions among districts.

The "pre-enrollment" of Selected Reserve members and dependents in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) was one focus of the workshop. When a person is on active duty for longer than 30 days, the member's dependents are eligible for certain benefits, including medical coverage by CHAMPUS. In order for a member and dependents to be eligible they must be enrolled. Pre-enrollment is a practice that will allow a member to have the necessary information on record before going on active duty.

In addition to pre-enrollment in DEERS, nearly 50 agenda topics, including IDT pay management and administrative overload, were discussed. Other issues relating to database management, personnel entitlements, and the merger of the Reserve Personnel Management Information System (RPMIS) and the Personnel Management Information System (PMIS) were covered in the group's recommendations to the Commandant.

For the Record: An Interview with Rear Admiral Sparks

While visiting Reserve Unit Curtis Bay, Maryland, Rear Admiral Bennett Sparks, the Senior Coast Guard Reserve Officer for Atlantic Area, spoke with the *Reservist*.

Reservist: Admiral Sparks, based on your long association with the Coast Guard Reserve, where do you see us, as a reserve component, going?

Admiral Sparks: First, all seven reserve and guard components of this nation have, as a primary responsibility, to be available, properly motivated, properly trained, properly equipped, and able to respond to the acts of adversaries promptly and effectively. How do we stack up against the other reserve components? I'd say very well. We are highly motivated; we are available; we are ready to respond (as we have done on many recent occasions); and we are properly trained. If more money were available in our annual budgets, we could use additional formal training, but we do very well with the funding we receive.

As for equipment, this is where we are somewhat different from some of the other reserve components. While they are funded for personnel and war-fighting equipment, we have chosen to rely on the equipment of the active Coast Guard. There are good reasons for this decision, including the costs of ongoing storage and maintenance, and the need to ensure a single Coast Guard procurement system. By using equipment owned by the active Coast Guard, we are assuring that the Coast Guard Reserve is not considered a separate, competitive component, and we ensure a good active/reserve working relationship.

Second, our augmentation training program is the most cost effective training program of all the reserve components. The quality of our reservists is equal to that of any reserve force. Our motivation is very good and our missions are well defined. Also, I would guess that our active/reserve relationship is at an all-time high and would stack up favorably with any other service.

Where are we going? We are light years ahead of where we were 30 or 20 or even 10 years ago, and we are continuing to get better due to better training, better defined missions, better military exercises, and more exercises with our sister services.

The most significant shortcoming I see in the Coast Guard Reserve is the continuing shortage in the number of reservists available to help the Coast Guard meet its wartime missions. The exercises we participate in continue to demonstrate the need for these reservists to help provide the Port security forces necessary for the Coast Guard to fulfill its role in the Maritime Defense Zones. The Commandant wants to reach 90 percent of our reserve strength requirements, about 24,500, during the next ten years. Administration approval and congressional funding are required.

Recently, Secretary of Defense Weinberger stated, "The reserve forces of the United States are no longer a force in reserve—they are an integral portion of our total national defense force." That sums up the importance of our reserve forces, including the Coast Guard Reserve. We are better than we've ever been and have yet to reach our zenith; and we match up very well when compared to our sister service reserve forces.

Reservist: You were once a Second Class Petty Officer. What advice would you give to those of us that fill the lower end of the enlisted ranks?

ADRM: Yes, I was a Second Class Petty Officer. In fact, I've had the unique experience of holding all ratings from E-1 to E-7 and all ranks from 0-1 to 0-7. My advice is to strongly consider making a career of the Coast Guard Reserve. Accept and seek opportunities to broaden your experience levels. Seek formal training whenever it is available to enhance your education. Also, I would advise all enlisted reservists to avail themselves of every opportunity to work closely with the active Coast Guard and, whenever possible, with the Navy and Naval Reserve forces.

Reservist: The Coast Guard Reserve is embarking on a recruiting drive to bring membership in the Selected Reserve to over 13,000 this year. How do you see us meeting this challenge in terms of providing valid training for both active and inactive duty periods—do you foresee any problems?

ADRM: Let me take the last part first. Yes, I see problems in any new or expanded program, but they are not, in my opinion, insurmountable. There are several factors in expanding the force. First, adequate funding from Congress to support the expansion; and the Commandant has to sell that to the Secretary and to Congress in a competitive fiscal era.

Second, the pool or base from which to recruit. Demographic studies tell us that, for the better part of the next decade, the pool will continue to get smaller, and we must compete not only with the civilian jobs but with the other armed forces and each of their reserve components. That means we must sell a product, the Coast Guard Reserve, that is better than the other reserve components. I know it is, but we must convince the young Americans that we are good and we do care.

Now for the training and ADT/IDT augmentation opportunities. I don't expect the active duty Coast Guard to expand in the next few years. This should provide us with increased augmentation opportunities. I still see a need, however, for the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve to reevaluate the current augmentation opportunities and to seek to emphasize those which are most cost effective, most beneficial to the Coast Guard, and will provide the training directly related to our wartime mobilization missions. This will require a new look at the current opportunities, but we can meet the requirements by attacking the problem with our wartime missions as the goal.

Reservist: What changes will we see at the unit level with implementation of the Maritime Defense Zone?

ADRM: As I have said several times, our missions are now better defined. This is basically due to our involvement in training, exercising, and planning for our possible wartime role in the MDZ. The effects on our reserve units will be to seek new ways to reduce administration and paper workload. We will be looking for cost effective methods to train for our roles in the joint service MDZ, and to have officers and enlisted members capable to help the active duty Coast Guard plan and implement MDZ readiness exercises. Most important, we will have to ensure that all reservists understand what we are trying to accomplish with the joint service MDZ.

I started this interview with my thoughts on why this nation has a reserve force, and I'll end with the same thought. If we train to become effective and efficient participants in this nation's Maritime Defense Zones, we will serve our nation well.

Reservist: Admiral, thank you for your time and candid responses.

ADRM: I appreciate this opportunity to convey my thoughts.

NERA Outstanding Enlisted Reservist Award

The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) is again accepting nominations for the annual Outstanding Enlisted Coast Guard Reservist Award. Nominations are to be made by group commanders and submitted by 1 August. The selection board, designated by the NERA, is made up of Coast Guard Reserve chiefs and senior officers. For further information see the Reserve Administration and Training Manual, COMDTINST M1001.27 (Enclosure 1-5).

Special Panel for Naval War College Course

Due to a change in the FY88 Naval War College schedule, there will be a one-time special selection panel in July 1987 to pick reserve officers to attend the Reserve Officer National Security Decision Making (RO/NSDM) Course, convening 25 January 1988. This course has replaced the Reserve Officer Defense Economics (RO/DE) Course. Interested officers in the pay grades of 0-4, 0-5, and 0-6 should contact their District (rt) for additional information. Applications are due to Commandant (G-RST) no later than 1 July 1987.